Origin of Decay

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Introduction

What comes to mind when you think of a teenager? Many adults probably consider the majority of modern teens to be rebellious, disrespectful, lazy, or even apathetic. The terms “OMG” and “IDK” probably conjure images of teens texting and talking after school, seemingly without even noticing that the world exists. It hasn’t always been this way, however. From 1969-1974, ABC aired a sitcom called *The Brady Bunch.* The premise of the show is fairly simple: Mike Brady (Robert Reed), who has three sons, is widowed and marries Carol Martin (Florence Henderson), who already has three daughters. It is never mentioned how Carol came to be single. If one watches *The Brady Bunch,* one will notice that the children, several of whom are teens, are depicted as polite, helpful, respectful, etc. Assuming that media reflects the times, one can surmise that teens at the time were considered to be polite, helpful, etc. This means that somewhere along the line, there was a shift in the attitude towards teenagers. Since modern teens are often associated with excessive communication, as well as technology proficiency, it is natural to assume that these associations began with the creation of this technology. Let’s look at the two big ones: cell phones and the internet. It is difficult to say exactly when the internet was created, but the creation started in the 1960s with a government research project, and was completed sometime in the early 1990s. The first patent for a mobile phone as we now know it was first issued in 1969. One may notice that these technologies were released at about the same time. Many people give the name “Generation Y”, or “Millenials”, to people born during this time period, which stretched from the late 1970s to the early 1990s. In this work, it will be argued that this generation is the beginning of the decay of modern youth.

**Millenials in the Workplace**

Millennials like to feel that they contribute to the process of the working business itself. They appreciate being praised and enjoy the feeling of accomplishment. Motivation goes a long way with the millennials. They will continue to try their best if they feel that they are generally helping the industry and the business. If the millennials are not being supported for their effort in the work place they will lose self-confidence, and not give positive performances.

Giving millennials tasks to do at work will give them more self-confidence, and allow them to have a feeling that their employer trusts them and that they are responsible. The millennials will respond with gratitude and will most likely successfully complete what was asked of them. They are good at multitasking and are up for a challenge.

Millennials are used to working in groups or teams, so employers have to create a group-conducive environment. The millennials believe that working in groups helps to get the tasks accomplished faster and more efficiently. Training and mentoring millennials in teams will help them to better understand concepts.

Millennials like to have an enjoyable work place and would like to be able to make friends at work, otherwise they will get bored. It is thus very important for employers to make the work environment a fun experience, with communication, but yet still have a structured environment.

The paragraphs above describe modifications that employers have had to make in order to accommodate millenials in the workplace. Although these concepts may seem like no-brainers to some people today, they are vastly different from the mentality of previous generations. Before the millenials, employees earned respect by “working their tails off”, as opposed to millenials, who don’t work effectively unless they are respected. This is believed to stem from the early childhood of millenials, when they were praised for even basic expectations. Growing up, millenials are exposed to the mentality that “no one loses” and that “everyone is special”; sometimes they are even given trophies just for participating in an event. For these reasons, millenials are sometimes called “the trophy generation”. The excessive praise is believed to cause millenials to have a sense of entitlement, as well as the belief that life should be easy. This is why employers have to make accommodations for millenials, and it is the reason that millenials are frowned upon for being lazy.